

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /158 W

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R 101522Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 594

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 6488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, NI

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE -- CAMBODIAN

REF: STATE 149073, 154606

SUMMARY: UNLESS ASIANS MAKE VERY STRONG EFFORT BLOCK SEATING OF GRUNK AT ALGIERS, FMG WILL ACQUIESCE QUIETLY IN WHATEVER CONSENSUS EMERGES IN KEEPING WITH PRIMARY INTEREST IN AVOIDING DISRUPTION OF CONFERENCE WHERE NIGERIANS HOPE TO LOBBY ON ISSUES THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT. END SUMMARY

1. IN ABSENCE BOTH COMMISSIONER AND PERMSEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, EMBASSY MADE REPRESENTATION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AT ALGIERS (REFTELS) TO DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT ADENIJI, WHO IS OFFICER MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONFERENCE PLANNING AND ASSIGNED DRAFTER OF GOWON SPEECH. DRAWING ON REFTELS,
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WE STRESSED LUSAKA PRECEDENT TO SUGGEST THAT QUESTION SHOULD

BE TREATED AS ASIAN ONE AND THAT FAIRNESS APPEARED DICTATE AT
VERY LEAST THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT BE SEATED IF GKR COULD NOT
BE ACCEPTED AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE.

2. IN REPLY, ADENIJI AGREED THAT QUESTION BASICALLY ONE FOR
ASIANS TO DECIDE, BUT OBSERVED THAT THREE GOVERNMENTS WHICH
WALKED OUT AT GEORGETOWN IN PROTEST AGAINST SEATING OF GRUNK
HAD NOT MADE THEIR VIEWS STRONGLY KNOWN WHEN ISSUE FIRST DISCUSSED.
ACCEPTANCE OF GRUNK AT GEORGETOWN HAD THUS SEEMED TO NIGERIANS
AND OTHERS RESULT OF REASONABLY BROAD CONSENSUS. WHILE CHAIRMAN
HAD PERHAPS GIVEN HIS RULING TOO PRECIPITOUSLY, NIGERIANS STILL
FELT THAT WALKOUT BY INDONESIA, LAOS, AND MALAYSIA WAS OVER-
REACTION IN LIGHT RELATIVE MODERATION OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY
EXPRESSED OPPOSITION. ADENIJI ADDED THAT NONE OF ASIAN COUNTRIES
(INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA BOTH REPRESENTED HERE) HAD MADE ANY
APPROACH TO FMG ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT ALGIERS,
SUGGESTING ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY ARE PERHAPS NOT AS DEEPLY
CONCERNED AS US DEMARCHE MIGHT IMPLY.

3. IN VIEW OF ASIAN SILENCE TO DATE, ADENIJI OFFERED PERSONAL
JUDGEMENT THAT GRUNK LIKELY BE SEATED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT
ALGIERS ON BASIS GEORGETOWN PRECEDENT, WHICH IN EFFECT
CONSTITUTES RECOMMENDATION FROM FOREIGN MINISTERS TO HEADS OF
STATE. HE ADDED PERSONAL HOPE THAT ASIAN STATES WOULD NOT SEEK
TO CHALLENGE THIS "CONSENSUS" SOLUTION, WHICH WOULD RISK
DISRUPTION OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND JEOPARDIZE ITS
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED SEPTEL, FMG SEES NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
PRIMARILY AS FORUM FOR USEFUL LOBBYING OF NON-AFRICANS FOR
SUPPORT ON UNGA ISSUES OF PRIORITY CONCERN, NOTABLY SOUTHERN AFRICA.
FOR NIGERIANS, CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION IS PERIPHERAL ISSUE,
WHICH ABOVE ALL SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO THREATEN HARMONY OF
CONFERENCE AND THUS IMPAIR ATMOSPHERE FOR THEIR LOBBYING
EFFORTS. UNLESS ASIANS MAKE VERY STRONG PITCH TO BLOCK GRUNK
SEATING, FMG WILL QUIETLY ACQUESCE IN "CONSENSUS" RULING
AGAINST GKR AND DOUBTLESS CONSIDER THIS MOST DESIRABLE OUTCOME.
SHOULD ASIANS IN FACT THREATEN DISRUPTION OF PROCEEDINGS OVER
CAMBODIAN ISSUE, NIGERIANS COULD PROVE USEFUL ALLIES IN SEARCH
FOR COMPROMISE (PRESUMABLY A "NEITHER-CAMBODIA" FORMULA) IN
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KEEPING WITH THEIR OVERRIDING INTEREST IN USING CONFERENCE
FORUM TO THEIR OWN BEST ADVANTAGE.
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